

### III. REMARKS

Claims 8 and 11-26 are pending in this application. Claims 9 and 10 are cancelled herein. By this amendment, claims 8 and 11 have been amended. The following remarks are being made to facilitate early allowance of the presently claimed subject matter. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the full scope of the subject matter of the original claims in a subsequent patent application that claim priority to the instant application. Reconsideration in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

In the Office Action, claim 8 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being unpatentable over Hooper (US Patent No. 5,606,195).

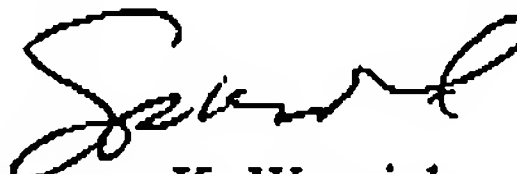
Applicants appreciate the indication that claims 13-26 are allowed. Applicants also appreciate the indication that claims 9-12 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. As agreed in a telephone interview with Examiner Dang on July 5, 2005, Applicants have amended claim 8 to incorporate the subject matter of claims 9 and 10.

With regard to the Office's stated reasons for allowance, Applicants submit that the stated reasons are only illustrative and other reasons are also applicable.

**IV. CONCLUSION**

Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner believe that anything further is necessary to place the application in better condition for allowance, he is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,



Spencer K. Warnick  
Reg. No. 40,398

Date: August 18, 2005

Hoffman, Warnick & D'Alessandro LLC  
Three E-Comm Square  
Albany, New York 12207  
Telephone (518) 449-0044  
Facsimile (518) 449-0047